

REMARKS

Claims 3-14, 16, 19-26, and 28-29 remain in the present application. Claims 1-2, 15, 17-18, and 27 are hereby canceled without prejudice so as to facilitate early allowance of the pending claims. Claims 3-7, 11, 13, 14, 16, 19, and 25 are hereby amended. No new matter is being added.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 3-4, 7-10, 13, 17, 19-23 and 27 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. As discussed below, applicants have amended the pending claims to overcome this objection and to put the pending claims in form for allowance.

Claims 3 and 4 are each hereby amended to be in independent form by incorporating the limitations of original claim 1. Hence, applicants respectfully submit that claims 3 and 4 as amended are now in form for allowance.

Claim 5-6 and 11 are each hereby amended so as to depend from newly independent claim 3. Claim 12 depends from claim 11. As such, applicants respectfully submit that claims 5-6 and 11-12 are now in form for allowance.

Claim 7 is amended hereby to be in independent form by incorporating the limitations of original claims 1 and 6. Hence, applicants respectfully submit that claim 7 as amended is now in form for allowance.

Claims 8-10 depend from newly independent claim 7. As such, applicants respectfully submit that claims 8-10 are now in form for allowance.

Claim 13 is amended hereby to be in independent form by incorporating the limitations of original claims 1 and 11. Hence, applicants respectfully submit that claim 13 as amended is now in form for allowance.

Claim 14 is amended hereby so as to incorporate the limitations of original claims 15 and 17. As such, claim 14 as amended now includes the allowable subject matter of

original claim 17. Hence, applicants respectfully submit that claim 14 as amended is now in form for allowance.

Claim 16 depends from amended claim 14. As such, applicants respectfully submit that claim 16 is now also allowable.

Claim 19 is amended hereby to be in independent form by incorporating the limitations of original claim 18. Hence, applicants respectfully submit that claim 19 as amended is now in form for allowance.

Claims 20-23 depend from newly independent claim 19. As such, applicants respectfully submit that claims 20-23 are now in form for allowance.

Claim 25 is amended hereby so as to incorporate the limitations of original claim 27. As such, claim 25 as amended now includes the allowable subject matter of original claim 27. Hence, applicants respectfully submit that claim 25 as amended is now in form for allowance.

Claims 26, 28 and 29 depend from amended claim 25. As such, applicants respectfully submit that claims 26, 28 and 29 are now in form for allowance.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that pending claims 3-14, 16, 19-26, and 28-29 are now in form for allowance and patentably distinguished over the cited art. Favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:



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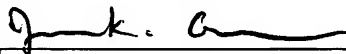
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April 27, 2005